Rock phosphate in Meghalaya

*98. SHRI G. G. SWELL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the assessed quantity of rock phosphate in the Sung Valley and Khasi Hills, in Meghalaya;

(b) whether Government have any plans to extract this mineral; and

(c) if so, the preliminary steps that have been taken to get the operation going and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Low grade Rock Phosphate occurs as apatite in Sung Valley area of Meghalaya stretching over two districts i.e. Jaintia Hills and East Khasi Hills. On the basis of investigation carried out by the Geological Survey of India the resources of the order of 1.3 million tonnes of low grade Apatite containing around 9% P_2O_5 have been assessed.

(b) and (c) Since the mineral is of low grade and cannot be used tirectly, there are no plans at present to exploit these deposits.

Manufacture of Coaches

*99. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railwal Convention Committee (1989) has observed that the Ministry of Railways is able to provide only 1200 coaches a year *vis-a-vis* the Railway Reforms Committee's recommendation to the tune of 1530 coaches per year resulting in unsatisfied boacklog of 330 coaches a year leading to congestion and hardships to the travelling public and a possible loss in revenue;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Committee desired that the Ministry draw up a short terms scheme to augment production capacity of coaches;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The Railway Convetion Committee assessed the need to set up additional manufacturing capacity for coaches to the extent of 1534 coaches per annum.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A new Coach Factory to manufacture 1000 coaches per annum has been set up at Kapurthala. The capacity at Integral Coach Factory, Madras has been increased by 200 coaches per year and a proposal to further increase its capacity by 150 coaches per year has been approved through the 1991-92 Budget.

(d) Does not arise.

World Bank Loan for Water Supply in A.P.

*100. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank loan amounting $89.9 million to Andhra Pradesh which was sanctioned for improving water supply and sanitation system in Hydrabad was utilised;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SHEILA KAUL): (a) to (c) The Hyderabad Water Supply and Sanitation Project for Rs. 257.06 crores with World Bank assistance of US $89.9 million commenced in October, 1990 and is scheduled to close in October, 1997 by which time the entire assistance has to be utilised. The expenditure incrred so far is Rs. 16 crores including World Bank assistance of US $7.583 million.